

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

REQUEST TO CREATE AND NAME A NEW DEPARTMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA: DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES AND SERVICES

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to create and name a new department known as the Department of Physician Assistant Studies and Services in the Carver College of Medicine.

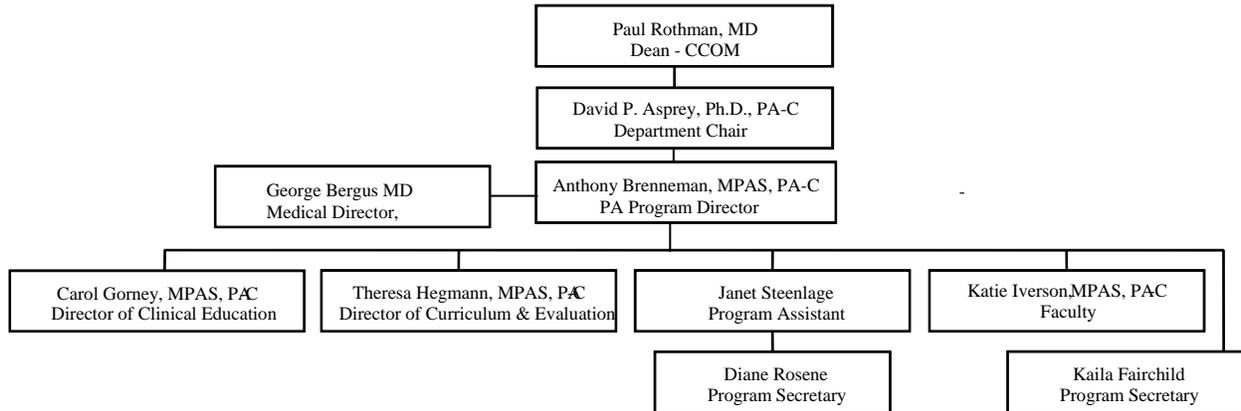
Executive Summary: The proposed department will provide an academic administrative unit consistent with other academic units in the Carver College of Medicine. This request has been reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. This request addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority to provide “educational excellence and impact” and Goal #8 – “Iowa’s public universities and special schools shall be increasingly efficient and productive.”

Background:

- ◇ **Description of current organization.** In June 1972, the Board of Regents approved the creation of an undergraduate Physician Assistant Program in the College of Medicine. The program received its initial accreditation in March 1975; it has received continued accreditation since that time. In 1992, the Board approved the conversion of the baccalaureate program to a graduate level, Master’s degree granting program overseen by the Graduate College. In 1994, the baccalaureate program was terminated when the Master’s program curriculum became fully implemented. In 2006, the Master’s program was transferred from the Graduate College to the Carver College of Medicine. At the present time, the program is overseen by a program director who reports to the Dean of the College.
- ◇ **Description of proposed change.** The proposed change will create an academic administrative unit for the Physician Assistant Program in the College of Medicine. The proposed department name – Physician Assistant Studies and Services – will reflect the fact that the core mission is education and that the faculty participate in research as well as clinical and professional service.
- ◇ **Purpose of proposed change.** Formal recognition as a department will provide the full complement of features and opportunities that are available to other departments in the College. The primary reasons for the request include the following:
 - ⇒ Aligns function of the academic unit with status in the College.
 - ⇒ Eliminates obstacles to attracting the best faculty, staff, and students to the program.
 - ⇒ Provides a status consistent with other similar academic units.
 - ⇒ Complies with accreditation standards for the program director position.
 - ⇒ Supports the pursuit of new affiliated educational programs, which include combining the Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) Program with a Master’s of Public Health, Master’s in Medical Education, Doctorate of Pharmacy, or Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine.
 - ⇒ Eliminates need to grant special status or make exceptions to the College’s policies and procedures.
 - ⇒ Provides a competitive advantage to the program.

- ◇ Proposed administrative organization. The Program in Physician Assistant Studies will have full departmental representation and privileges in the Carver College of Medicine. The current program chair will serve as department head. The current associate program director will assume the role of program director.
- ◇ Comparable name at other institutions. Peer institutions, including the Baylor College of Medicine, George Washington University, Oregon Health and Sciences University, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (Dallas), and Wake Forest University use the academic unit designation of department for their physician assistant program.
- ◇ Anticipated cost savings. The change to departmental status is not projected to result in new cost savings.
- ◇ Effect on students. The proposed administrative change will accurately reflect the unit's current functional status. It will provide formal mechanisms to have the unit recognized within the College's administrative structure. The faculty will have appointments in a department. It may also provide assistance with grant applications by conveying to reviewers that the unit has administrative validation.
- ◇ Effect on resources. Implementation of the proposed department will result in minimal cost. The primary expenditures will result from changing the name on marketing products; many changes will occur as existing products are used up. No new personnel will be required with the change.
- ◇ Anticipated impact on other units. This program has already been essentially operational as a department within the College from an organization perspective; therefore, there will be no direct impact on other units. Conversion to department status will place the unit on equal status with other units and reduce perceived difference in status.
- ◇ Proposed change consistent with mission of the College and University. Conversion of the program to a department is consistent with the goals of the Carver College of Medicine and the University of Iowa. The 2005 Carver College of Medicine Strategic Plan identified the following goals:
 - ⇒ Goal A. Strengthen the CCOM/UIHC partnership to enhance clinical care, clinical research, and medical education at all levels.
 - ⇒ Goal B. Cultivate preeminent faculty and excellent staff by creating a work environment where talent thrives.
 - ⇒ Goal C. Strengthen the financial position of CCOM and its departments, programs, and centers.
 - ⇒ Goal D. Optimize the organizational structure to enhance communication, collaboration, and effectiveness.
 - ⇒ Goal E. Increase the national stature of clinical programs, research programs, and educational programs.
 - ⇒ Goal F. Diversify the community of clinicians, researchers, students, and staff.
 - ⇒ Goal G. Increase collaboration with other units of the University as well as private organizations for the purpose of advancing the mission of the College.
- ◇ Date of implementation. The proposed department reorganization will become effective upon approval by the Board of Regents and will be implemented in July 2012.

**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART FOR THE PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES AND SERVICES**



**FIRST TIME PASS RATES FOR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM GRADUATES
IN NATIONAL LICENSING EXAM**

YEAR OF EXAM	% PASS NATIONALLY	% PASS UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
1996	90%	100%
1997	92%	100%
1998	95%	100%
1999	91%	100%
2000	92%	100%
2001	91%	100%
2002	90%	100%
2003	89%	100%
2004	90%	100%
2005	91%	100%
2006	92%	100%
2007	93%	100%
2008	93%	100%
2009	93%	100%
2010	93%	100%
2011	NA	100%
AVERAGE	91.6%	100.0%